



DEC. 14, 2010

HEALTH UPDATE

Providers Asked To Report Severe Influenza Infections in Pregnant and Postpartum Women

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor severe influenza infection in pregnant and postpartum women. The Department is asking providers to report all ICU admissions and deaths among pregnant and postpartum (six weeks after delivery) women with influenza infection (diagnosed via rapid test, PCR, DFA/IFA or viral culture). To report cases, please call the NDDoH, Division of Disease Control, at 800.472.2180.

In addition, we are requesting that providers report all cases which may have occurred back to Sept. 1, 2010. Upon notification, all identified cases will be followed up by NDDoH staff. This important public health effort cannot succeed without your help.

CDC has extensive guidance available on their website regarding the care and treatment of pregnant women with influenza. Please see the following links:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/peri-post-settings.htm>

If you need clarification on the CDC guidance for providers caring for critically ill pregnant or postpartum women, a CDC staffed support line is available by calling 404.368.2133.

All other concerns and questions about the CDC guidance and reporting pregnant and postpartum cases should be directed to the NDDoH by calling 800.472.2180.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.